Calendar No. 484

98TH CONGRESS } SENATE { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 98-275

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 1984

OCTOBER 19 (legislative day, OCTOBER 17), 1983.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3959]

The Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 3959) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year 1984, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with various amendments and with the recommendation that the bill be passed.

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TITLE I

CHAPTER I

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY OR HANDICAPPED FUND

The Committee has proposed an amendment to the Housing and Urban Development-Independent Agencies Appropriation Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–45) which would limit the interest rate charged to sponsors of section 202 projects to 9.25 percent on projects starting construction during fiscal year 1984. If the interest rates were permitted to increase to the expected fiscal year 1984 Treasury rate of 10.5 percent, the fair market rents (FMR) would have to increase by approximately 10 percent to make the projects financially viable. Such a large adjustment in the FMR is not likely, and consequently an estimated 25 percent of the section 202 pipeline of potential fiscal year 1984 starts may be infeasible.

This amendment, which is identical in intent to a similar proviso contained in the "Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1983" (Public Law 97–377), is intended to insure that the feasibility of proposed section 202 projects is not impaired as a result of financing costs.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1984 appropriation to date	$700,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	600,000

The Committee recommends an additional appropriation of $600,000 for the Council. There was no budget request or House allowance.

The Committee agrees with recent recommendations by both the Office of Technology Assessment and the General Accounting Office that we are facing increasingly severe water problems in this country. The Committee also agrees that we need to augment current research and information dissemination with serious consideration of national goals and needs and is providing $600,000 for two studies to define and plan a National Center for Water Resources Research and a National Clearinghouse for Water Resource and Water Management Practices. The Committee emphasizes a multidisciplinary planning process to determine how institutions and individuals in both the private and public

sectors can participate in water resource planning and research, and not a technical study of the resource. The two studies can be conducted independently within the amount provided, and the report, or reports, must be submitted to Congress no later than September 30, 1984.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(Limitation on Official Reception and Representation Expenses)

1984 limitation	($500)
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	(1,500)

The Committee recommends an increase of $1,500 in the representation fund for use by the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from $500 to $2,000. This is to allow sufficient latitude to provide initial or reciprocal courtesies normally expected by foreign dignitaries and official representatives of their governments.

Under U.S. foreign policy guidance provided by the Department of State memorandum, Subject: Executive Branch Organization for NATO Civil Emergency Planning (CEP), dated October 22, 1979, FEMA is tasked with providing a level of overall planning, development, direction, and implementation of programs in support of FEMA responsibilities and objectives in all international civil emergency management matters to promote and preserve U.S. national interests and enhance U.S. foreign policy objectives. In connection with these responsibilities, FEMA provides a senior adviser in NATO to coordinate the formulation and implementation of U.S. CEP policy; and the Director, FEMA, serves as cochairman of both the United States/Canadian and United States/Mexican consultative committees under bilateral agreement with both of these nations.

As part of fulfilling these international commitments, the Director of FEMA is expected to extend certain courtesies, principally to members of NATO, Canada, and Mexico, when such officials are in Washington or when the Director is visiting these nations. In 1983 alone, there were 110 visitors/officials from 28 countries and NATO, the majority of which were extended courtesies, the cost of which was borne by the Director from his personal funds.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES

1984 appropriation to date	$135,000,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	20,000,000

The Committee recommends an additional $20,000,000 under the construction of facilities account to remain available until September 30, 1986. This amount represents the first increment of funding for two projects—the solid rocket booster assembly and refurbishment facility,

and warehousing to be used by the Shuttle processing contractor—both at the John F. Kennedy Space Center. NASA may allocate the $20,000,000 between the two projects as it deems necessary to meet construction phasing requirements.

The Committee bill includes a second provision related to the Space Shuttle program which allows NASA to use funds already appropriated in the fiscal year 1984 HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriation Act (Public Law 98–45) to contract with Morton Thiokol, Inc., to amortize the casting pit covers over a 12-year period. The total cost is not to exceed $23,000,000. This language allows NASA to amortize this facility under provisions outlined in the construction of facilities section of Public Law 98–45. This facility modification is needed to assure a higher production rate for the solid rocket boosters.

The solid rocket booster assembly and refurbishment contractor will develop and propose the design for the refurbishment facility project. The functions to be performed are processing and manufacturing, hot firing, and engineering support. Construction is estimated to begin in late fiscal year 1984 and the total cost, excluding site preparation, is estimated to be between $20,000,000 and $25,000,000.

The Shuttle processing contractor will develop and propose the design for its warehousing needs. Warehousing is required for flight hardware and spares, logistical supplies, and ground support equipment and its associated spare parts. The space needs are approximately a total of 250,000 square feet and it is anticipated that construction will begin in early calendar year 1984. The total cost is estimated to be between $19,000,000 and $20,000,000.

The balance of funds for both projects will be defined during the next year through the procurement process. The Committee expects NASA to submit firm cost estimates for the completion of these two projects as part of NASA fiscal year 1985 construction of facilities appropriation justification. The Committee encourages NASA to continue to pursue innovative contracting procedures that can reduce life-cycle costs or increase the efficiency of facilities without compromising Congress role in budget oversight.

Veterans Administration

Compensation and Pensions

1984 appropriation to date	$13,430,800,000
1984 supplemental estimate	66,000,000
House allowance	66,000,000
Committee recommendation	

The Committee has not included any funds for compensation and pensions. This is $66,000,000 less than the budget estimate and the House allowance.

Compensation is payable to living veterans who have suffered impairment of earning power from service-connected disabilities. The amount of compensation is based upon the impact of disabilities on earning capacity. Death compensation or dependency and indemnity compensa-

tion is payable to the surviving spouses and dependents of veterans whose deaths occur while on active duty or result from service-connected disabilities. A clothing allowance is also provided for service-connected veterans who use a prosthetic or orthopedic device.

More than 50 percent of the entire budget of the Veterans Administration is paid out in compensation and pension checks to veterans and their dependents. Congress, under Public Law 97–272, provided the VA with $13,430,800,000 for compensation and pensions for fiscal year 1983. The Veterans Administration estimated that obligations in this program would increase above the fiscal year 1983 appropriation as a result of increased caseload and higher than anticipated payments due to more rapid increases in disabilities and dependents than anticipated.

The Committee is concerned that it was not notified in a timely manner of the need for an additional compensation and pensions appropriation. The Committee understands that the VA was aware there was a strong probability of a shortfall several months before the August congressional recess. The Committee notes that this is not the first instance where the agency has failed to provide the Committee current funding or staffing information.

On October 1, 1983, subsequent to the House action, $13,842,000,000 of fiscal year 1984 funds became available to the VA. This eliminated the need for a supplemental appropriation. As in the past, a fiscal year 1984 supplemental appropriation for compensation and pensions may be necessary. The Committee will provide sufficient funds to offset the effects of any fiscal year 1983 shortfall at that time, if it is required.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

1984 appropriation to date	$1,665,800,000
1984 supplemental estimate	40,000,000
House allowance	40,000,000
Committee recommendation	

The Committee has not included any funds for readjustment benefits. This is $40,000,000 less than the budget estimate and the House allowance.

The readjustment benefits appropriation finances the education and training of veterans and servicepersons whose service occurred, at least in part, between February 1, 1955, and December 31, 1976—post-Korean and Vietnam-era veterans. It also finances educational assistance allowances for eligible dependents of those veterans who died from service-connected causes or have a total permanent service-connected disability, as well as dependents of servicepersons who were captured or missing in action. In addition, certain disabled veterans are provided with vocational rehabilitation, specially adapted housing grants, and automobile grants with associated approved adaptive equipment.

Congress, under Public Law 97–272, provided the Veterans Administration $1,665,800,000 in readjustment benefits, primarily for education and training for fiscal year 1983. The additional $40,000,000 requested on September 15, 1983 was required to fund the direct obligations for readjustment benefits that exceed the Veterans Administration's anticipated fiscal year 1983 direct obligations.

The Committee is concerned that it was not notified in a timely manner of the need for an additional readjustment benefit appropriation. The Committee understands that the VA was aware there was a strong probability of a shortfall several months before the August congressional recess. The Committee notes that this is not the first instance where the agency has failed to provide the Committee current funding or staffing information.

On October 1, 1983, subsequent to the House action, $1,371,000,000 of fiscal year 1984 funds became available to the VA. This eliminated the need for a supplemental appropriation. As in the past, a fiscal year 1984 supplemental appropriation for readjustment benefits may be necessary. The Committee will provide sufficient funds to offset the effects of any fiscal year 1983 shortfall at that time, if it is required.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH—AGENT ORANGE

1984 appropriation to date	$162,325,000
1984 supplemental estimate	57,356,000
House allowance	57,356,000
Committee recommendation	53,974,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $53,974,000 in the medical and prosthetic research account for agent orange epidemiological research. This amount is $3,382,000 less than the budget estimate and the House allowance.

The VA agent orange epidemiological study was mandated by Congress under Public Laws 96–151 and 97–72. The VA has signed an interagency agreement with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of Atlanta, Ga., which transfers from the VA to CDC the resources and authority for the design, implementation, analysis, and scientific interpretation of a valid epidemiological study. The study will determine whether Vietnam veterans who may have been exposed to the herbicide agent orange, and Vietnam veterans in general, are at greater risk of suffering long-term health effects than veterans who did not serve in Vietnam.

CDC has completed preliminary design for the study. The design was reviewed by several medical peer groups and a panel put together by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment. These groups have indicated that the current plans developed by CDC appear to be sound.

A review of the project cost breakdown indicated that a reduction could be made in administrative and travel-related costs. Such a reduction would not affect the scientific integrity of the study. The Committee recognizes that many of the details of the research plan impacting administrative costs cannot be resolved until the contracts are underway. This will not take place until the latter portion of fiscal year 1984. The Committee intends to review the revised cost estimates at this point in time to reevaluate the total agent orange project funding. The Committee further notes that if additional funds are required, they could be provided in fiscal year 1985 during the second year of the project.

EMERGENCY JOB TRAINING

1984 appropriation to date	
1984 supplemental estimate	$150,000,000
House allowance	150,000,000
Committee recommendation	150,000,000

The Committee recommends $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 1986, for funding the veterans' emergency job training program authorized by Public Law 98–77. This is the same as the budget request and the House allowance.

The Committee commends the House for its concern for the most needy veterans. The Committee, however, believes that the inclusion of a targeting procedure at this time would make the program more difficult to administer. Of the $150,000,000, not more than $25,000,000 is to be used for the vocational training program authorized by section 18(a) of that act. This is $5,000,000 more than provided in the House bill. It is also the intent of the Committee that the vocational training program funds are to be available for use in the job training program as the respective program demands indicate. However, while unobligated vocational training funds may be used for job training programs prior to December 31, 1984, on that date, any unobligated vocational training program funds are to be returned for job training program use on that date.

The Committee recommends that the program be targeted to those areas where there is a high probability of long-term employment for the retrained veterans. It is not the intent of the Committee to limit the areas in which the program is concentrated, but rather to maximize the number of veterans retrained and remaining in positions utilizing their new skills.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

1984 appropriation to date	$719,088,000
1984 supplemental estimate	
House allowance	4,165,000
Committee recommendation	4,165,000

The Committee recommends a supplemental appropriation of $4,165,000 for general operating expenses. This amount is the same as the House allowance and $4,165,000 more than the request. The sum of $1,000,000 of the appropriation is set aside to fund a contract to evaluate the effectiveness of the emergency veterans' job training program.

The general operating expenses account provides for the administration of nonmedical veterans benefits through the Department of Veterans Benefits. The Department of Veterans Benefits determines the eligibility and adjudicates all claims for pensions, educational assistance, housing loan assistance, and insurance awards.

Public Law 98–77, enacted August 15, 1983, established a temporary emergency program of job training for eligible unemployed veterans. The Veterans Administration has requested fiscal year 1984 supplemental appropriations of $4,165,000 and 119 full-time equivalent employment (FTEE) in the general operating expenses account to administer the Emergency Veterans' Job Training Act of 1983.

The VA request to OMB for additional staffing identified 50 FTEE for veterans services, 49 for compensation, pensions, and education, 15 for vocational rehabilitation and counseling service, and 5 for office services.

The Committee feels that it does not have adequate workload information from the Veterans Administration to determine whether the level and distribution of the FTEE requested is appropriate. The Committee recommends that $3,165,000 be appropriated to implement the job training program and that the Office of Management and Budget evaluate the need for additional staffing and adjust the FTEE ceiling accordingly.

The Committee intends to closely monitor the conduct of the emergency veterans' job training program. To this end the Committee directs the VA to initiate a contract to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. The Committee recommends that the contract include one interim report on the processing of applications, another interim report on the conduct of the training, and a final report. The interim report on the process should be received by the Committee no later than March 1, 1984. The interim report on the training should be received by the Committee no later than June 1, 1984. The final report should be received by the Committee no later than June 1, 1985.

CHAPTER II

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SENATE

PAYMENT TO WIDOWS AND HEIRS OF DECEASED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Committee recommends an amendment providing, in accordance with longstanding custom, a gratuity equivalent to 1 year's salary to the widow of the late Senator Henry M. Jackson. This practice of paying death gratuities has been customary in the Senate for approximately 125 years and is identical to the practice followed in the House of Representatives.

SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

1984 appropriation to date	$881,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	140,000

The Committee has recommended an appropriation of $140,000, $70,000 each to the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, for salaries of staff in the leadership offices. The Committee notes that an increase in the allowance for leadership office staff has been granted only once in the past 6 fiscal years, and believes the recommended increase to be justified in view of the increased workload.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE

SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

1984 appropriation to date	$390,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	60,000

The Committee has recommended an appropriation of $60,000 for the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a photo essay concerning the U.S. Senate. This is to be an official history of the Senate to be given to visiting heads of state and members of parliamentary bodies, and is to be prepared and printed at the direction of the Secretary of the Senate with the assistance of the Senate Historian and the Senate Curator. The Committee cautions that this publication is intended for limited

distribution for official purposes only, and does not believe any funds for additional copies will be necessary at any time in the near future.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1201 enables the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate to designate one or more employees in his office to approve vouchers on his behalf for Senate services. At the present time, only the Sergeant at Arms and Deputy Sergeant at Arms, in the absence of the Sergeant at Arms, have this authority.

Primarily because of its supervision of the Senate computer center and service department, the Office of the Sergeant at Arms now submits approximately 10,000 vouchers per year—30 percent of the total for the Senate. The Committee believes that requiring the Sergeant at Arms or Deputy to sign all of these documents is not the best use of their time, and that adequate protection of funds appropriated to the Sergeant at Arms will continue. The Committee notes that the Committee on Rules and Administration recently authorized two of its employees to sign vouchers on behalf of the chairman of the committee, a precedent for this section.

Section 1202 provides that moneys from the sale of equipment or other items which have in the past been credited to the "Miscellaneous items" or "Automobiles and maintenance" accounts within the contingent fund of the Senate, shall hereafter be credited to the account for the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. This provision is consistent with the action of the Committee in Public Law 97–51, the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1984, which established a separate account for all expenses of the Sergeant at Arms.

Section 1203, while authorizing changes in rates of compensation to be effective only on the 1st or 16th day of a month, after January 1, 1984, allows greater flexibility for Senate offices to implement retroactive changes in rates of compensation for two 10-day periods each month. Changes in compensation to be effective on the 1st day of a month may be received in the disbursing office as late as the 10th day of a month and changes to be effective on the 16th day of the month may be received in the disbursing office as late as the 25th day of a month. However, certifications for appointments, transfers from one Senate appointing office to another, and promotions to a position for which the salary is set by law must still be received in the disbursing office on or before the effective date in conformance with existing authority.

The Committee has also recommended a provision, section 1204, authorizing employees in the Offices of the Secretary of the Conference of the Majority and the Secretary of the Conference of the Minority to be reimbursed for travel expenses which are chargeable to the Senator's official office expense account in the same manner which has been previously authorized by law for the President pro tempore, the majority and minority leaders, and the majority and minority whips of the Senate.

The Committee recommends a new section numbered 1205 which eliminates the specific reference to wide-area telephone service, or WATS, a service of the American Telephone & Telegraph Co., and grants the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate the general authority, subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration, to provide access to a pool of leased long-distance telephone lines to each Senator's office, in addition to local service. This will enable Senators to utilize long-distance telephone services offered by other companies. Such expenses shall be paid from funds available to the Sergeant at Arms for such purpose in the contingent fund of the Senate.

Railroad Accounting Principles Board

1984 appropriation to date	.....
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	$50,000
Committee recommendation	.....

The Committee has deleted from the bill a provision which would provide $50,000 for the initial costs of the Railroad Accounting Principles Board. The Committee notes that the Board is presently not authorized, and that the previous 3-year authorization lapsed without any appropriation. The Committee believes that funding for the Board should await enactment into law of the necessary authorizing legislation.

CHAPTER III

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

Mamaroneck and Sheldrake local protection, N.Y.—The Committee directs the Corps of Engineers to apply, from available funds, an additional $300,000 to accelerate and complete the feasibility study of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers flood protection project in 1984 so that a decision regarding funding for continued planning and engineering and project construction can be made at the earliest possible time. In addition, the Chief of Engineers shall include the costs and benefits of local improvements initiated by local interest for such flood protection subsequent to January 1, 1985, which the Chief of Engineers determines are compatible with and constitute an integral part of his recommended plan. In determining the appropriate non-Federal share for such project, the Chief of Engineers shall fully consider the costs incurred by non-Federal interests in carrying out such local improvements.

Homochitto and Buffalo River basin, Miss. (MR&T).—Within available funds, the Corps of Engineers is directed to use $650,000 to continue the study of flood control, bank stabilization, sedimentation, and related activities along the Homochitto and Buffalo Rivers, St. Catherine and Coles Creeks, Bayou Pierre, and other major tributaries draining into the Mississippi River between Bayou Pierre and the Buffalo River, Miss.

Fox River, Wis.—In action on the 1984 Energy and Water appropriations bill, the decision was made to convert the operation of the navigation locks on the Fox River in Wisconsin to caretaker status. The Committee has been informed, however, that local interests currently are negotiating with the Corps of Engineers in an effort to take over lock operations. In an effort to provide additional time for the orderly transfer of operations to local interest, the Corps of Engineers is directed to allocate $900,000 from available funds for continued operation of the navigation locks on the Fox River.

The Committee believes that, in light of past project utilization, lock operation should not be extended beyond the end of fiscal year 1984.

Plymouth Bluff and Crows Neck Environmental Centers.—The Committee concurs with the House Committee report provision directing the Chief of Engineers to construct the Crows Neck and Plymouth Bluff

Environmental Education Centers in accordance with the plans developed and the agreements by the district engineer.

Minto-Brown Island Park, Oreg.—The Committee directs the Corps of Engineers to allocate, from available funds, $1,000,000 to undertake measures which will prevent further erosion to and protect the Federal investment in the Minto-Brown Island Park in Oregon.

Sowashee Creek, Miss.—The Committee has been advised of the continuing serious flood problems along the Sowashee Creek in Meridian, Miss. The Corps was authorized, under section 171 of the 1976 Water Resources Development Act, to undertake the phase I design memorandum stage of advanced engineering and design along the lower 10.1 miles of Sowashee Creek. Flood problems in the upper reaches and adjacent areas are to be reduced by upstream watershed structures authorized for installation by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Sowashee Creek Drainage District and in coordination with the Corps downstream work. Because of the urgent need to proceed with construction work, the Committee directs the Corps to take all necessary steps to accelerate and expedite the phase I report so as to enable Congress to consider this project in the next session.

Grays Harbor, Wash.—The Committee is concerned over the continued delays in the processing of the authorized phase 1 general design memorandum for the proposed Grays Harbor, Wash., project. The Committee directs the Chief of Engineers to review this project and the phase 1 schedule and to take such steps as may be necessary to expedite the report so that the Congress can consider this project in the next session.

Homer Spit, Alaska.—The Committee directs the Corps of Engineers to undertake a study on a permanent solution of serious erosion conditions at Homer Spit, Alaska. Since the 1964 Good Friday earthquake, the spit has been susceptible to major erosion during the spring and fall through a combination of high tides, storms, and shifting currents. The study should be initiated so data on wave action and current can be collected during the spring of 1984.

Barnegat Inlet, N.J.—The Congress authorized a phase 1 general design memorandum on the Barnegat Inlet, N.J., project in the 1976 Water Resources Development Act. In submitting the phase 1 report on this project, the Chief of Engineers determined that the existing authorized project should be modified due to design deficiencies and that the proposed modifications are basically corrective measures required to have the project function as initially intended and, therefore, can be implemented within the purview of the original project authority. In light of this determination, the Committee urges the Chief of Engineers to proceed with the modifications as quickly as possible in accordance with his findings and expressed intentions to correct these deficiencies, using available resources.

Presque Isle, Pa.—The Committee is disturbed that the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works and the Corps of Engineers has continually delayed ongoing engineering and design activities on the Presque Isle project and has indicated that it does not intend to follow the Committee's intent to fund the design for a permanent solution.

The Committee has consistently supported this project and the need for a permanent solution to the beach erosion problem in both the 1983 supplemental and 1984 Energy and Water Development appropriations bills.

Therefore, the Committee directs the Corps of Engineers to forward the revised project report which is due on November 30, 1983, along with its recommendations and funding schedule for the permanent solution.

Rochester, Minn. flood control project.—Within available funds, the Corps of Engineers is directed to use $200,000 to continue planning and engineering on the Rochester, Minn., local protection project.

South Yadkin River, N.C.—An amount of $300,000 was appropriated for fiscal year 1984 within the annual "General investigation" account for the Little Pee Dee and Pee Dee Rivers basin study. Within available funds, the Committee directs the Corps of Engineers to proceed with the study to determine what measures are necessary and justified to provide flood control, water supply, hydroelectric power, and allied purposes in North Carolina, with particular reference to multipurpose reservoirs on the South Yadkin River, as authorized by a resolution adopted September 23, 1982.

Devils Lake basin, N. Dak.—Within available funds, the Corps of Engineers is directed to begin a feasibility study of the Devils Lake basin, N. Dak., under the authority of the Red River of the north authorization. The Committee recognizes the relationship of the Devils Lake basin and the Pick Sloan plan and, therefore, directs the Corps to consult and coordinate its efforts with the Bureau of Reclamation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 1302.—*Everglades National Park, Fla.*—The Committee recognizes the emergency situation existing in Everglades National Park as a result of excessive rainfalls over the last several years. The delicate ecosystem of the park has been disrupted and, as a result, there has been a dangerous decrease in wading bird populations as well as other animal and plant species. Untimely water releases during nesting seasons have affected such endangered species as the brown pelicans and woodstork. The alligators, once prolific in this area, are now seen in reduced numbers.

The unseasonably wet period and its effects prompted the Everglades National Park to work with the south Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement a seven-point emergency program for the park. A portion of this plan recommends a revision in the water delivery schedule in order to allow for greater discharges to the park during the wet season, and a reduction in unseasonable, dry season releases. Experts agree that a more natural schedule of water flows across the east Everglades area is the only way to insure ecological integrity of Everglades National Park.

The Committee also acknowledges the concern on the part of many that a change in the water delivery schedule could have an adverse impact on privately owned lands east of the park. These lands include

large, undeveloped areas of potential agricultural lands, as well as an 8.5 square mile residential area. The Committee recognizes the need to address and resolve this situation and treat fairly private landowners whose properties may be affected as a result of water delivery modifcations necessary to protect the Federal park. The Committee believes this matter ought to be dealt with in an equitable and expeditious manner.

SEC. 1305.—The Committee has included a section which provides that funds available for the Red River Waterway project shall be used to provide for the design and construction of a replacement bridge for the Louisiana and Arkansas Railway Co., near Alexandria, La. The new bridge will replace an existing bridge between Alexandria and Pineville, La., which would have interferred with navigation on the Red River Waterway. The total Federal cost of the bridge replacement shall be limited to $24,270,000 (July 1, 1983 price levels) adjusted for fluctuations in construction costs plus the cost of any necessary real estate interests.

The cost of the bridge replacement will exceed the cost of modifying the existing railroad bridge to provide suitable navigation along the Red River Waterway; however, the Federal Highway Administration notes that it is proceeding with construction of Interstate 49 in the Alexandria area and that approximately $10,800,000 in Federal highway funds can be saved if the railroad bridge is relocated in advance of highway construction. This provision will provide for coordinated development of the two projects and will result in an anticipated savings of approximately $5,000,000 in public funds when increased bridge construction costs are offset against Federal highway savings.

The railway company will remove its existing bridge and piers at its own expense. Any real estate interests acquired by the Corps of Engineers as part of the bridge replacement may be transferred to the railway company upon completion of construction. Construction of the replacement structure will be upon terms and conditions acceptable to the Chief of Engineers in the interest of navigation and the expeditious completion of the project. The work will be undertaken in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the Chief of Engineers and the railway company.

SEC. 1306.—The Committee has been made aware of the problems in the North Branch of the Chicago River where it flows through the area between Howard Street and Caldwell Avenue in Niles, Ill., where the river has silted-up at one point and the bank has sloughed into the channel at another point. Therefore, to reduce the dangers of increasing bank failure, unsafe conditions, and flooding caused by channel obstructions, the Corps of Engineers is directed, using available funds up to $100,000, to excavate the river channel to its normal dimensions and provide bank stabilization where the failure has occurred.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Yuma, Ariz., Quartermasters Depot.—The Committee has included a provision in the bill which allows the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation to carry out the intent of the Committee in actions on the 1984 Energy and Water Development appropriations bill regarding the relocation of the water users currently occupying the Quartermasters Depot in Yuma, Ariz.

Upper John Day Project, Oreg.—The Committee directs the Bureau of Reclamation to use $150,000 of available funds to complete the Upper John Day project study in 1984. The data necessary for the study has already been collected and analyzed and additional funds would allow for the completion of the planning report and environmental statement.

Hoover Dam Powerplant uprating and facility improvements.—The Committee directs the Bureau of Reclamation to allocate sufficient funds from the construction program to undertake advanced engineering and design on Hoover Dam Powerplant and other facility improvements. The project has been in operation for more than 40 years and critical safety and equipment requirements have been identified for implementation. This action will allow the Bureau of Reclamation to begin initial engineering activities prior to project authorization.

Lower Colorado River flooding.—Controlled flooding conditions along the lower Colorado River, and recent floods in New Mexico and Arizona require a coordinated review by both the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation and a recommendation of measures to prevent or minimize recurring damage. Additionally, the Committee urges the Bureau to comprehensively address the serious groundwater problems in the lower Colorado region within existing authorization.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY, SUPPLY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1984 appropriation to date	$1,951,609,000
1984 supplemental estimate	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	8,000,000

The Committee recommends $1,000,000 to continue advanced heat cycle research to develop more efficient, economical systems for the generation of electrical power from moderate temperature geothermal heat sources. Field experiments in the area of reinjection of geothermal brines are needed to collect further data and to assist in overcoming technical obstacles to geothermal energy development. This effort is an integral part of the analysis being done by other Department of Energy laboratories in areas of hydrothermal research.

The Committee concurs with the House supplemental appropriation of $4,000,000 to initiate the health care program, authorized in Public Law 96–205, for the Marshall Islands people affected by atomic wea-

pons testing activities. The House provided funds for this program within the chapter on Interior and Related Agencies. The Committee recommends inclusion of this funding in the "Energy supply, research, and development" account because it is an extension of the ongoing program to provide medical care and/or radiological monitoring of Marshalls Islands people at Bikini, Rongelap, Utirik, and Enewetak.

The Committee has provided $3,000,000 for construction and operation of a second small community solar energy project on the island of Molokai, Hawaii. The $3,000,000 is provided for this solar thermal project in addition to the $41,500,000 specifically identified for solar thermal energy systems in conference report 98-272.

Atomic Energy Defense Activities

1984 appropriation to date	$6,547,875,000
1984 supplemental estimate	60,000,000
House allowance	57,000,000
Committee recommendation	60,000,000

DEFENSE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT

Terminal storage.—The Committee recommendation includes $60,000,000, the same as the budget request, for the waste isolation pilot plant (WIPP) project in New Mexico. The fiscal year 1984 budget request was reduced by the Department on the assumption that the additional administrative land withdrawal and necessary project approvals could not be accomplished in time to allow construction to begin on schedule. Those activities have been completed as originally scheduled. The additional $60,000,000 will allow for the continuation of construction on the most cost-effective schedule.

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

Production and surveillance.—The Committee recommends rescission of the $50,000,000 allocated in Public Law 98-50 for project 82-D-109, 155-mm artillery fired atomic projectile (AFAP) production facilities. This recommendation is consistent with action taken by Congress in the fiscal year 1984 Department of Defense authorization bill to terminate the program.

MATERIALS PRODUCTION

Safeguards and security.—The Committee has included language requested by the Department which authorizes the purchase of four additional helicopters for use in the safeguards and security program. The request is based on an internal reassessment of security needs for the Department of Energy weapons complex. The Department is directed to provide notification and specific justification to the Committees on Appropriations prior to the actual purchase of any helicopter under this provision.

Nuclear Waste Disposal Fund

1984 appropriation to date	$306,657,000
1984 supplemental estimate	33,500,000
House allowance	12,000,000
Committee recommendation	12,000,000

The Committee recommendation provides $12,000,000 for the Nuclear Waste Fund, the same as the House and $21,500,000 below the supplemental request. The recommendation provides the requested funding for monitored retrievable storage. The Committee believes that the fiscal year 1984 funding included in Public Law 98–50 is adequate to undertake the other activities included in the supplemental request.

Clinch River Breeder Reactor

This act appropriates $1,500,000,000 (60 percent) of the March 15, 1983 DOE estimated costs to complete the CRBR project, $135,000,000 of which is unconditionally available in fiscal year 1984 and the balance of which is available only if utility and private sector commitments are obtained to finance the remaining $1,000,000,000 (40 percent) of such costs and if such commitments are satisfactory to the Secretary. Private sector financing could be a combination of debt and equity or, if equity can only be obtained at costs or terms which the Secretary determines are unreasonable, all debt. Such commitments would include existing conditional commitments for research and development contributions from more than 750 electric utilities (including TVA) and project contractors, in addition to the $150,000,000 which they will have contributed by the end of fiscal year 1983, as well as conventional underwriting agreements with investment bankers for the purchase and sale of securities, contracts for borrowings from institutional investors and/or banks, and/or contracts for equity funds from corporations which would obtain customary tax benefits from the investment of such funds which they could otherwise obtain from the investment of such funds in other projects.

All private sector commitments are expected to include conventional conditions to the private sector financing as well as the condition that certain Federal contracts be in full force and effect. Such commitments would be satisfactory to the Secretary if he has a reasonable basis to believe that such commitments will be met and that such financing would be provided by such commitments, after considering such matters as he deems relevant, which may, but need not necessarily include, (i) the financial condition of the proposed private investors who made such commitments; (ii) the terms of and conditions to such financing and whether it appears to him that such terms are reasonable and such conditions have a reasonable possibility of being satisfied; and (iii) the qualifications and experience of any underwriters which will obtain such financing.

The Federal Government has been and will continued to be the principal designer and construction manager of the project which will be operated by TVA. Under the contemplated arrangements, private sector investors will have no control of the project during any portion of its

useful life. This act authorizes the Secretary to contract on a long-term basis to provide assurances to such investors that (a) they will be made whole if the project is terminated at any time or is not completed, (b) its revenues will be adequate to pay its expenses and the principal of and interest on debt, (c) equity investors will not lose expected tax benefits due to any changes in tax laws, although their individual tax situation may not permit them to realize such benefits, and (d) private participants and the operator will not be liable for uninsured risks with respect to the project; this act also authorizes contracts for shared ownership of the project by the Government and private investors.

The Federal contracts which private sector investors will require are the types of contracts specifically excepted from the Anti-Deficiency Act. The investors may decide not to commit to make investments in the project unless such contracts are incontestable, as are Federal contracts which support other projects. The contracts authorized would provide the kinds of assurances which are essential to obtaining utility and private sector financing as described in the June 29, 1983, Breeder Reactor Corp., (BRC) task force report to the Secretary presenting the BRC plan for private financing for the project in response to the December 1983 congressional directive to the DOE "* * * to * * * explore proposals * * * that would reduce Federal budget requirements for the CRBR project * * * and secure greater participation from the private sector."

The BRC plan would (1) make no change in existing project objectives or management arrangements, including decisionmaking authority and responsibility for safety, (2) make no change in current licensing procedures or requirements, (3) does not require any further review of financial qualification, and (4) makes no changes in the environmental aspects of the project. Current project contracts will be honored, although it is expected that the TVA will no longer be the sole purchaser of electricity generated by the plant and will not exercise its option to purchase the entire plant after completion of the demonstration period. This act, therefore, authorizes a modification to the existing project arrangement which would otherwise require that power produced by the plant be acquired by TVA.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Appalachian Regional Commission

Funds Appropriated to the President

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1984 appropriation to date	$145,000,000
1984 supplemental estimate	
House allowance	9,400,000
Committee recommendation	

The Committee does not recommend an additional appropriation for the Appalachian highway system and has deleted the $9,400,000 included in the House-passed bill.

The 1984 appropriations of $100,000,000 for ARC highway programs became available on October 1 and the Committee feels that a supplemental appropriation is not warranted. If additional highway funds are needed by a particular State, the Committee believes that the State should seek a redistribution of available highway funds from the Commission.

CHAPTER IV

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES

FISH AND WILDLIFE AND PARKS

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$270,803,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	500,000

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $500,000, an increase of $500,000 over the budget estimate and over the House allowance.

The Committee has included a general provision which provides direction to the Secretary of the Interior with respect to new oil and gas lease applications outside of Alaska that are in units of the national wildlife refuge system.

The Committee, by including this language, does not intend to express its opinion on the widom of additional oil and gas leasing on national wildlife refuges. Instead, the Committee believes that a sounder decision on this vital matter will be made if all the information that will be developed during the preparation of an environmental impact statement and the promulgation of a rule is available to the public and the Congress. Requiring that these steps be taken will also provide time for the authorizing committees to conduct oversight activities and take whatever action they deem necessary.

To carry out these additional responsibilities, $500,000 is provided for the preparation of environmental impact statements.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$601,095,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	.....

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee recommends bill language authorizing the National Park Service to reimburse the estate of Bess W. Truman for guard service expenses incurred for the protection of the Harry S Truman National Historical Site between the date of her death and the date the National Park Service began providing protection. These expenses were necessary to provide security for the Truman house. The benefit from

the guard service expenses accrued to the general public and the estate should not be expected to bear those costs.

CONSTRUCTION

In the fiscal year 1983 appropriation bill, a construction project at the Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial was funded at a level of $2,444,000. The bids have now been received by the NPS for this project and the low bid was for $2,595,000, or $151,000 above the appropriated amount. In most instances, the NPS would merely shift an additional $151,000 from savings on other projects to this project, in order to complete the construction project funded by Congress. However, in this instance the development ceiling authorized for Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial is also exceeded by the low bid estimate by $151,000. For the NPS to be able to undertake this project, the development ceiling needs to be raised. Normally, this would be accomplished through the authorizing committees but in this case the bid would expire before authorization could be enacted. Therefore, the Committee has recommended bill language which will increase the development ceiling.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$148,150,000
1984 supplemental estimate	
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	25,500,000

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $25,500,000, an increase of $25,500,000 above the budget estimate and the House allowance.

$25,000,000 is provided to pay a court award for the Congaree Swamp National Monument in South Carolina.

The Committee included the following language in the conference report accompanying the fiscal year 1984 appropriations bill for Interior and Related Agencies: "The managers have agreed that the properties in the Saratoga NHP, N.Y., threatened by development are to be acquired by a reprograming proposal, and that the Department should not await the completion of the land protection plan if that further threatens those properties."

The Committee is concerned, however, that the time involved in developing, submitting, and receiving approval of the reprograming proposal may cause the loss of these critical properties. The Committee, therefore, is recommending an additional $500,000 for land acquisition in Saratoga NHP and directs the NPS to immediately undertake the development of necessary appraisals and to immediately begin any other action that will result in the acquisition of these parcels in the most expeditious manner.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION FUND

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$229,228,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	42,000,000
Committee recommendation	42,000,000

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee has joined the House in providing $42,000,000 to relocate the citizens of the borough of Centralia and the village of Byrnesville as a result of the mine fire which has been burning in and around Centralia, Pa., for over 20 years. The option of relocation appears to be the most workable and least expensive solution to this problem which has exposed the residents of the area to the extreme dangers of the mine fire, including subsidence and noxious air.

The Committee has adopted the language proposed by the House as well as additional language which will allow the Department to use any funds remaining following completion of the acquisition and relocation activities at Centralia for other reclamation projects by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and language which requires the commonwealth to accept title to all properties previously acquired by the Department in the Centralia area. The Committee has proposed this latter provision so that the Office of Surface Mining will have no further land ownership in the Centralia area once the relocation activity is complete. The Committee notes, however, that certain legal problems may now exist which make it undesirable for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to accept title to the lands. The Committee, therefore, directs the Department to immediately take the steps necessary to resolve any such legal difficulties which may exist so that the relocation activities can commence at the earliest date possible.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

OPERATION OF INDIAN PROGRAMS

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$822,302,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	1,700,000
Committee recommendation	.....

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee has deleted $1,700,000 provided by the House for prekindergarten programs. The Indians school equalization formula does not include prekindergarten programs. The 16 programs which were in existence in 1979 were grandfathered for 2 years by Public Law 95–561. Action on appropriations bills grandfathered the programs for an additional 2 years, but the termination of this effort in fiscal year 1984 is in line with congressional directives contained in the fiscal year 1983 appropriations bill. These programs serve only 1,000 children of an estimated eligible population of 88,600. Funding is provided through the Johnson-O'Malley program for Indian children from age 3 who are enrolled in a public school program.

The Committee has included bill language providing that funds appropriated in Public Law 97–257 to assist in the transfer of BIA schools to the Alaska school system may be used for reconstruction of the schools.

In adopting this language it is the intent of the Committee to allow the State of Alaska latitude in determining the actual physical location of the day schools so long as any new construction would serve those students who would have otherwise attended the BIA school.

General Provisions

The Committee has deleted language in the House bill prohibiting funds to be expended by the Department of the Interior for the lease sale of certain tracts in lease sale No. 79 within the east Gulf of Mexico. The Committee believes this issue has been resolved through language adopted in Public Law 98–107 and through subsequent language that will be adopted pursuant to the regular 1984 appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies.

The Committee is recommending a general provision concerning aircraft operations for agencies funded through the Interior and Related Agencies bill. The language is intended to preclude the use of restricted category aircraft as defined by 14 CFR 21.185 from being used to haul freight and cargo. The amendment is not intended to limit firefighting activities which involve the use of aerial tankers, helicopters, and smokejumper aircraft. It applies to air cargo operations, including those in support of firefighting operations. The agencies and departments covered should use only standard category aircraft as defined under 14 CFR 21.183 for these types of operations unless the Secretary of the department determines that the aircraft are not reasonably available. This should happen in very few instances.

The Committee has included a general provision regarding oil and gas leasing which is explained under the Fish and Wildlife Service account.

Forest Service

The United States Forest Service estimates that recent flooding in New Mexico and Arizona caused 14,530,000 dollars' worth of damage to national forest system land and facilities located within the two States. Much of the damage impacts not only on physical construction, but on important watersheds on these lands. The Committee instructs the Forest Service to immediately begin repair of the highest priority, life- and property-threatening damages. With the onset of winter, it is extremely important that much of this work be accomplished before heavy snowfall in order to minimize further potential damage to the forests next spring. The Committee is aware that use of available resources for this emergency repair work will necessitate the need for a supplemental appropriation for Forest Service activities in fiscal year 1984 and directs the Forest Service to submit such a supplemental.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$259,214,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	.....

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee has deleted $1,000,000 provided by the House for fossil energy research and development. The action of the House would increase funds made available in Public Law 98–107 for continued testing at the Homer City, Pa., bi-gas facility. The Committee notes, however, that $5,000,000 has been made available through Public Law 98–107 and believes this amount is more than adequate to conduct any tests planned by the Department of Energy.

TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS

PACIFIC NUCLEAR VICTIMS HEALTH CARE PLAN

1984 appropriation to date[1]	.....
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	$4,000,000
Committee recommendation	.....

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee has deleted $4,000,000 provided in chapter IV for the four atoll health care plans and has instead funded this program under chapter III of this bill.

Section 102 of Public Law 96–205 specifies that the Department of Energy use funds appropriated for nuclear research and development to implement a health care program for residents of four Pacific atolls that may have been affected by nuclear testing activities. The Committee expects the Department of Energy to act expeditiously in making funds available for implementing this program through the Department of the Interior, as is provided for by law.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

1984 appropriation to date[1]	$34,389,000
1984 supplemental estimate	.....
House allowance	.....
Committee recommendation	250,000

[1] As contained in the conference report on H.R. 3363.

The Committee recommends an appropriation of $250,000 for the special exhibition program, an increase of $250,000 over the House allowance. The additional funds were included in the budget estimates for fiscal year 1984, but were not included in the regular appropriation bill. It has since become clear that these funds are required for support of the special exhibition program.

CHAPTER V

UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

Administrative Expenses

The bill includes a provision disapproving the proposed deferral of $2,050,000 for USRA. The regular transportation appropriations bill (Public Law 98–78) included fiscal year 1984 funds for USRA to enable it to fulfill remaining statutory requirements, notably the Conrail profitability test due this November. The Committee feels that it is premature to sunset USRA as negotiations regarding the sale of Conrail unfold. At such time as Congress finds no further need for this independent agency to report on Conrail's performance, it can take prudent and appropriate steps for termination. As indicated in the Senate report accompanying the fiscal year 1984 bill, USRA's funding needs will continue to be reviewed.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

LOCAL RAIL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

The House has included report language regarding distribution of discretionary local rail service assistance funds. The Committee notes that on September 29 the Federal Railroad Administration released its notification to States of formula share allocations which indicates that sufficient funds are available to meet House concerns. Therefore, the Committee reiterates the directions provided in the statement of managers accompanying the fiscal year 1984 transportation appropriations conference report regarding distribution of discretionary funds.

REDEEMABLE PREFERENCE SHARES

The House report directs that redeemable preference share funds be reprogramed from the East St. Louis Gateway project to the former Erie-Lackawanna line project between Dover, N.J., and Scranton. Without prejudice to the Dover-to-Scranton project, the Committee opposes such a reprograming. The Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis, on behalf of the East St. Louis project, is expected to submit a grant application to the Federal Railroad Administration for track and signal work. Until FRA completes its review of the East St. Louis grant and makes a final determination as to the full project requirements, it is premature to reprogram funds. Furthermore, it is the Committee's understanding that several events must take place before Monroe County,

Pa., could make and FRA could review an application for the Dover-to-Scranton line. The Committee also believes that it is inappropriate to reprogram these funds until FRA can give consideration to the competition among rail carriers serving the region, and to their ability to compete fairly for Federal funding of similar projects on lines previously abandoned or scheduled for abandonment. The Committee directs the Department, instead, to reassess current needs for redeemable preference shares for these and other projects, and report to the Committees of Appropriations, so the matter can be discussed fully in the context of next year's budget hearing.

CHAPTER VI

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Grain Inspection Service

INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES

1984 appropriation to date	
1984 supplemental estimate	$8,000,000
House allowance	
Committee recommendation	8,000,000

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 required the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), as of October 1, 1981, to recover from user fees administrative and supervisory costs related to official inspection and weighing functions under the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA). Agency revenues are dependent on grain movement, which, because of recent economic factors, has declined. Despite increased user fees and a significant reduction in personnel, FGIS expenses have consistently exceeded revenues. This situation is expected to continue in the immediate future, thereby depleting the Agency revolving fund reserves. Should this happen, FGIS will be unable to provide inspection and weighing service. Under the provisions of the USGSA, grain then could not be exported.

For recapitalization of the revolving fund established in the U.S. Grain Standards Act of 1976, the Committee recommends an appropriation of $8,000,000. This is the same as the budget estimate and $8,000,000 more than provided by the House. This is a nonrecurring appropriation and will be repaid over a 3-year period. Funding at this time will allow long-range management planning, rather than seeking short-term solutions because of funding deficiencies.

Commodity Credit Corporation

EXTENDED STORAGE AGREEMENTS

The Committee is concerned about the possibility that long-range agreements for the storage of commodities owned by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) have, in some cases, resulted in payment for unused storage space. The Committee, therefore, expects the Department of Agriculture to review the status of these extended storage agreements and their cost effectiveness, and to report its findings to the Committee during hearings on fiscal year 1985 appropriations. The Committee also will expect the Department to include in its review the potential cost effectiveness of longer-range (more than 4 years) agreements for storage of commodities in the food security reserve.

Food and Nutrition Service

The Committee directs the Food and Nutrition Service to discontinue the withholding of funds from day care centers in New York. This withholding was instituted in an effort to recoup alleged overpayments made through the New York Agency for Child Development to the day care centers in question. It is the understanding of the Committee that these centers may not have received the alleged overpayment. Therefore, the Committee has acted to prevent the collection of those funds for 6 months. It is the Committee's intent that Federal and local agencies work together during the time provided to conduct an audit to determine the accuracy of FNS's computation of overpayments. Specifically, the Food and Nutrition Service shall use their auditing staff to assist in this investigation.

TITLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rural Development Loan Fund

The Committee included bill language (section 2002) to require obligation of previously appropriated rural development loan funds.

The rural development loan fund makes loans to nonprofit organizations for economic development in depressed rural areas. Due to delays in the obligation of funds by the Office of Community Services (see Senate Report 98–148), the Senate adopted an amendment to H.R. 3069, the supplemental appropriations bill, requiring the obligation of $10,000,000 or the remaining balance of the fund, whichever is lower, by December 31, 1983, and in each succeeding fiscal year. Although the conference report for H.R. 3096 included the Senate amendment as it applied to 1983, the future year language was deleted for procedural reasons.

The Committee's recommendation for fiscal year 1984 is similar to the provision approved by the Senate as part of H.R. 3069. It requires the obligation of $10,000,000 or the remaining balance of the fund, whichever is lower, by December 31, 1984. According to the Office of Community Services, there is currently about $8,500,000 in the RDLF fund. Thus, the Committee expects the remaining balance of the fund to be obligated. The $10,000,000 ceiling was included as a limitation in case some large, unscheduled repayment of an RDLF loan is made. The Committee also directs that the loans be made in accordance with the terms of the conference report language accompanying H.R. 3069.

Federal Communications Commission

The Committee recommends a new general provision (section 2003) dealing with the Federal Communications Commission. Subsection (a) of this section prohibits the use of funds appropriated in this or any other act through May 31, 1984, for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to repeal or modify the syndication rule, the financial interest rule, and the prime time access rule. Subsection (b) amends subsection (a) by permitting the FCC to modify the provisions or applicability of the rules mentioned in subsection (a) with respect to any network which has fewer than 150 television licensees affiliated with such network and such licensees that carry not more than 25 hours per week of programing from the interconnected program service offered by such network. This definition makes clear that the prohibition applies only to the three major networks in existence on the date of enactment. The Committee believes that the FCC tentative decision of August 4, 1984, has such far-reaching and potentially adverse consequences for competi-

tion and diversity in the television marketplace that a period of time is necessary for Congress to examine further all pertinent issues.

Military Construction—Air Force

The Committee is aware of an Air Force proposal to establish a strategic range control site near Dickinson, N. Dak. The Committee is encouraged by recent discussions between the city of Dickinson and the Air Force about utilizing existing housing and services, which would result in a substantial savings to the Air Force and a boost to the local economy. The Committee commends the Air Force on this innovative and cost-effective approach to providing the necessary facilities for its personnel and urges continued cooperation between the Air Force and the community.

Comparisons With Budget Resolution

In accordance with section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), the following comparison between the new budget authority set forth in the first concurrent resolution on the budget, as allocated by the Committee on Appropriations under section 302 of the act, and the budget authority contained in the accompanying bill is provided:

Total fiscal year 1984 section 302(a) allocation	$536,363,000,000
Current level[1]	520,202,000,000
Amount in other pending supplemental	78,000,000
Amount remaining	16,083,000,000
Committee bill	607,000,000
Net amount under allocation	15,476,000,000

[1] CBO estimate of: previously enacted appropriation bills; the continuing resolution; and contingencies for mandatory items.

Five-Year Projection of Outlays

In accordance with section 308(a)(1)(B) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), the following table contains 5-year projections of the outlays associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

Budget authority	$607,000,000
Outlays:	
1984	284,000,000
1985	226,000,000
1986	80,000,000
1987	11,000,000
1988	7,000,000

Assistance to State and Local Governments

In accordance with section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–344), the new budget authority and outlays provided by the accompanying bill for financial assistance to State and local governments are as follows:

Fiscal year 1984 new budget authority	$35,000,000
Fiscal year 1984 outlays resulting therefrom	8,000,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY ESTIMATES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL

TITLE I—GENERAL SUPPLEMENTALS

[Amounts in dollars]

House Doc.	Item	Budget estimates	House bill	Senate committee recommendation	Senate committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
					Budget estimates	House bill
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	CHAPTER I					
	EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT					
---	Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	---	---	600,000	+600,000	+600,000
	NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION					
---	Construction of facilities	---	---	20,000,000	+20,000,000	+20,000,000
	VETERANS ADMINISTRATION					
98-111	Compensation and pensions (FY 1983)	66,000,000	66,000,000	---	-66,000,000	-66,000,000
98-111	Readjustment benefits (FY 1983)	40,000,000	40,000,000	---	-40,000,000	-40,000,000
98-85	Medical and prosthetic research	57,356,000	57,356,000	53,974,000	-3,382,000	-3,382,000

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY ESTIMATES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL—Continued

TITLE I—GENERAL SUPPLEMENTALS—Continued

[Amounts in dollars]

House Doc. (1)	Item (2)	Budget estimates (3)	House bill (4)	Senate committee recommendation (5)	Senate committee recommendation compared with (+ or −): Budget estimates (6)	Senate committee recommendation compared with (+ or −): House bill (7)
98-	Veterans Job training	150,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	---	---
---	General operating expenses	---	4,165,000	4,165,000	+4,165,000	---
	Total, Veterans Administration	313,356,000	317,521,000	208,139,000	-105,217,000	-109,382,000
	Total, Chapter I	313,356,000	317,521,000	228,739,000	-84,617,000	-88,782,000
	CHAPTER II					
	LEGISLATIVE BRANCH					
	SENATE					
---	Payments to widows and heirs of deceased Members of Congress	---	---	69,800	+69,800	+69,800
	Salaries, Officers and Employees					
---	Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders	---	---	140,000	+140,000	+140,000

	Contingent Expenses of the Senate				
---	Secretary of the Senate	---	---	60,000	+60,000	+60,000
	Total, Senate	---	---	269,800	+269,800	+269,800
	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
---	Payments to widows and heirs of deceased Members of Congress	---	69,800	69,800	+69,800	---
	RAILROAD ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES BOARD					
---	Salaries and expenses	---	50,000	--	--	-50,000
	Total, Chapter II	---	119,800	339,600	+339,600	+219,800
	CHAPTER III					
	BUREAU OF RECLAMATION					
---	Construction program	---	---	1,500,000	+1,500,000	+1,500,000
	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
---	Energy Supply, Research and Development	---	---	8,000,000	+8,000,000	+8,000,000
98-102	Atomic energy defense activities	60,000,000	57,000,000	60,000,000	- -	+3,000,000
---	Rescission	---	---	-50,000,000	-50,000,000	-50,000,000
98-73	Nuclear waste disposal fund	33,500,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	-21,500,000	---

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY ESTIMATES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL—Continued

TITLE I—GENERAL SUPPLEMENTALS—Continued

[Amounts in dollars]

House Doc.	Item	Budget estimates	House bill	Senate committee recommendation	Senate committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
					Budget estimates	House bill
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	Clinch River Breeder Reactor:					
---	Appropriation, FY 1984	---	---	270,000,000	+270,000,000	+270,000,000
---	Appropriation, Future Years	---	---	1,230,000,000	+1,230,000,000	+1,230,000,000
	Total, Clinch River Breeder Reactor	---	---	1,500,000,000	+1,500,000,000	+1,500,000,000
	Total, Department of Energy	93,500,000	69,000,000	1,531,500,000	+1,438,000,000	+1,462,500,000
	INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
	Funds Appropriated to the President:					
---	Appalachian regional development programs	---	9,400,000	---	---	-9,400,000
	Total, Chapter III	93,500,000	78,400,000	1,531,500,000	+1,438,000,000	+1,453,100,000

CHAPTER IV

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

---	Resource management	---	---	500,000	+500,000	+500,000
	National Park Service					
---	Land acquisition and state assistance	---	---	25,500,000	+25,500,000	+25,500,000
	Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement					
---	Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund	---	42,000,000	42,000,000	+42,000,000	---
	Bureau of Indian Affairs					
---	Operation of Indian programs (School operations)	---	1,700,000	---	---	-1,700,000
	Territorial Affairs					
---	Pacific nuclear victims health care plan	---	4,000,000	---	---	-4,000,000
	Total, Department of the Interior	---	47,700,000	67,500,000	+67,500,000	+19,800,000

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

---	Fossil energy research and development	---	1,000,000	---	---	-1,000,000

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY ESTIMATES RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL—Continued

TITLE I—GENERAL SUPPLEMENTALS—Continued

[Amounts in dollars]

House Doc.	Item	Budget estimates	House bill	Senate committee recommendation	Senate committee recommendation compared with (+ or −)	
					Budget estimates	House bill
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
	SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION					
---	National Gallery of Art	---	---	250,000	+250,000	+250,000
	Total, Chapter IV	---	48,700,000	68,250,000	+68,250,000	+19,550,000
	CHAPTER V					
	UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION					
	Administrative expenses:					
---	(effect of deferral disapproval)	---	---	(2,050,000)	(+2,050,000)	(+2,050,000)

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CHAPTER VI

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Federal Grain Inspection Service

98-111 Inspection and weighing service	8,000,000	---	8,000,000	---	+8,000,000
Grand total	414,856,000	444,740,800	1,836,828,600	+1,421,972,600	+1,392,087,800
Appropriations, FY 1983	(106,000,000)	(106,000,000)	---	(-106,000,000)	(-106,000,000)
Appropriations, FY 1984	(308,856,000)	(338,740,800)	(656,828,600)	(+347,972,600)	(+318,087,800)
Appropriation, Future Years	---	---	(1,230,000,000)	(+1,230,000,000)	(+1,230,000,000)
Rescissions	---	---	(-50,000,000)	(-50,000,000)	(-50,000,000)
(Effect of deferral disapproval)	---	---	(2,050,000)	(+2,050,000)	(+2,050,000)